

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed August 25, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 8, 2003.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 6, 11, 17, 22 and 27 are independent. Claims 11-16 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. It is noted that the status of claims 27-32, however, remains unclear in that these claims were apparently not included in the Official Action including the Species Election mailed April 16, 2004 and thus have not been directly addressed. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 17-32 are believed to be subject to examination, of which claims 1, 6, 17, 22 and 27 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action objects to the title as not descriptive. In response, the title has been amended to METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE. Reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-10 and 17-26 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,465,288 to Ohnuma.

In response to this rejection, a *Terminal Disclaimer* is submitted herewith. Upon filing of this *Terminal Disclaimer*, the claims of the present invention are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections are requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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